

(b) the areas that have been highlighted by the National Quality Monitor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that loss amounting to Rs. 450 crore in the purchase of low quality bitumen under PMGSY has surfaced in Chhattisgarh and other States; and

(d) if so, the details in that regard and the corrective measures taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas of deficiency that have been highlighted by the National Quality Monitor are:

- (i) Compaction of earthwork in embankment.
- (ii) Gradation of G-II & III material in WBM.
- (iii) Less compaction of shoulder.
- (iv) Non use of hot mix plant and paver in Bituminous works.

(c) and (d) No such report is available with the Ministry.

Dwindling ground water table

1606. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ground water table is dwindling every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof between 2000 and 2005;
- (c) whether the drawing of water higher than specified by the Cola companies at various places is also a contributing fact for the lower level ground water tables;
- (d) what is the difference between an underground water table in the areas adjacent to Cola companies and at other places in each State;
- (e) whether this is contributing to the shortage of underground water to the agricultural activities in those areas; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to rectify this anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out in the year 2004 jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the States, out of 5723 ground water resource assessment units (block/mandal/taluka), 839 assessment units are 'over-exploited' wherein stage of ground water development is more than 100% and significant decline in long term trend of water level has been observed in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon periods or both, 226 units are 'critical' wherein ground water development is more than 90% and upto 100% and significant decline is observed in long term trend of water level in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods. As per the ground water level monitoring carried out by CGWB, declining trend has been observed between 2000 and 2005 in isolated pockets in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement (see below).

(c) to (e) Decline in ground water levels in an area is cumulative effect of ground water withdrawal for all purposes including domestic, industrial as well as agricultural sectors. CGWB monitors ground water levels on a regional basis and carries out assessment studies at watershed/block levels. Micro level monitoring of ground water level pertaining to Cola companies in each State is not done by the Board. However, a special study was carried out by CGWB in Plachimada village, Chittoor block, Palakkad district in Kerala and Kaladera village, Govindgarh block, Jaipur district in Rajasthan, where soft drink manufacturing factories are located. The main finding of the study is that agricultural pumpage is contributing the maximum for decline of ground water.

In Plachimada village of Kerala, ground water withdrawal for irrigation was found to be 92.6% of the total ground water withdrawal, whereas that for industry was 3.5%. In Chittoor block, maximum water level recorded was 11.6 meters below ground level (mbgl) whereas in Plachimada village, in Chittoor block, where Coca Cola factory is located, maximum water level recorded was 7.7 mbgl.

In Kaladera village of Rajasthan, the ground water withdrawal for irrigation was 81.3% and that for industry was 12.6% of the total ground water withdrawal. In Govindgarh block, the maximum decline was 17 metres as village Itawa Bhopji, which is located far away from the Coca Cola Company. Around Kaladera industrial area, in Govindgarh block, decline of less than 10 metres in water level was observed during the same period.

(f) 'Water' being a State subject, action if any to check the quantum of ground water withdrawal by Cola companies is to be taken by the States. However, the Union Government/CGWB have also taken several remedial steps in this regard which *inter alia* include the following:—

- (i) A report titled 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' has been prepared which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq. km. Area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water. The document has been circulated to all the States/UTs for appropriate action.
- (ii) The CGWB has circulated Manual/Guide on techniques of Artificial Recharge to Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.
- (iii) CGWB promotes rain water harvesting by conducting mass awareness/training programmes and provides technical guidance to various Government and Non-Government agencies.
- (iv) Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill to "Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water" to the States/Union Territories. The Model Bill has a separate chapter on 'Rain Water Harvesting for Ground Water Recharge'.
- (v) The Union Government has constituted "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council" under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Water Resources in the Ministry of Water Resources, which has representation from various Ministries/Departments concerned with rain water harvesting, States/

UTs, Financial Institutions, Industries/Public Undertakings as well as NGOs and renowned Subject Experts.

- (vi) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has directed the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/promote rain water harvesting in all the over-exploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.
- (vii) CGWA has notified 20 severely Over-exploited areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management. The CGWA is also regulating development of ground water by new industries/projects in all Over-exploited/Critical areas.

Statement

Names of States where declining trend of ground water, in isolated pockets, observed by CGWB during 2000-2005

SI.No.	State	Remarks
1	Andhra Pradesh	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 296 mandals.
2	Delhi	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 7 Blocks
3	Gujarat	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 43 Taluks
4	Haryana	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 66 Blocks
5	Karnataka	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 68 Blocks
6	Kerala	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 20 Blocks
7	Madhya Pradesh	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 29 Blocks
8	Maharashtra	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 8 Blocks
9	Punjab	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 108 Blocks
10	Rajasthan	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 190 Blocks

Sl.No.	State	Remarks
11	Tamil Nadu	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 175 Blocks
12	Uttar Pradesh	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 50 Blocks
13	Uttarakhand	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 2 Blocks
14	West Bengal	Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 1 Block

Progress of Employment Guarantee Scheme

1607. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in implementing Employment Guarantee Scheme, till date, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the States have not created separate administrative set up for implementing the Scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that administrative expenditure under the Scheme is to be raised from two per cent to six per cent; and

(d) how much amount has been spent, State-wise, under the Scheme, the type and value of assets created by this Scheme and the number of beneficiaries getting average daily income under the Scheme, since beginning of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) A status report on the implementation of NREG Act in the States is given in the enclosed Statement-I (see below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Expenditure Finance Committee has agreed to the proposal for the administrative expenditure under NREGA from 2% to 5% of the total cost of the programme. The proposal will now be placed before the Cabinet for its approval.

(d) Financial performance of NREG Act and physical performance indicating the works taken up under the Act are given in the enclosed Statement-II and III (see below). A status report on the implementation of NREG Act indicating the number of persons who have been provided employment under the Act is at Statement-I.